



SALTIRE

An X or chi-shaped cross. Saltire is the technical name for the cross of St. Andrew. He is said to have died on this form of cross, considering himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type as his Lord died upon. He continued in prayer until the very end.

This cross symbolizes humility and suffering.

The beginning of the Christian year, Advent is always the nearest Sunday to St. Andrew's Day, November 30.

TAU

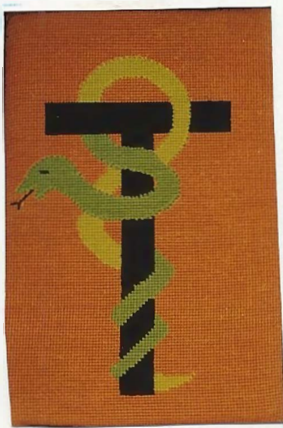
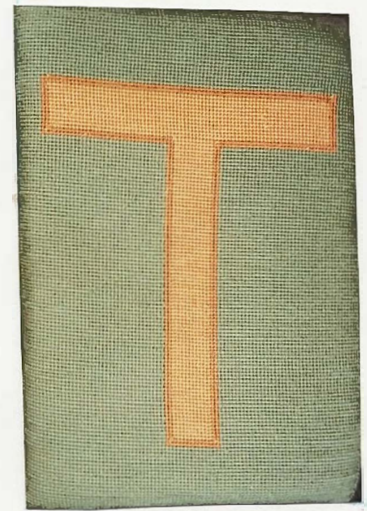
A cross formed of the letter "tau," the first letter of the Greek word "Theos," meaning God. It may be considered as a pre-Christian cross.

It is also referred to as the Old Testament Cross, Cross Potent, Cross of Prophecy, Anticipatory Cross, Advent Cross, St. Anthony's Cross, and Egyptian Cross.

It is the Old Testament Cross because it is the traditional sign which the Israelites made with blood on their door-posts to avert death on the night of the Passover. (Exodus 12: 22, 23)

As the Cross of Prophecy, or Anticipatory Cross, it is often called the Advent Cross.

St. Anthony's or Egyptian Cross are names for the Tau because St. Anthony of Egypt sold all his possessions while a young man. He lived in complete solitude for twenty years. He is regarded as the patriarch of monks.



BRAZEN SERPENT ON A CROSS

This Tau Cross of Prophecy or Anticipatory Cross refers to Numbers 21, verses 8 and 9, in which "the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten (by a fiery serpent) when he looketh upon it, shall live."

This symbol is a link between the time of Moses and the time of Christ. For Jesus said: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." (John 3: 14)



TAU CROSS ENHANCED

The nimbus is a symbol of sanctity.

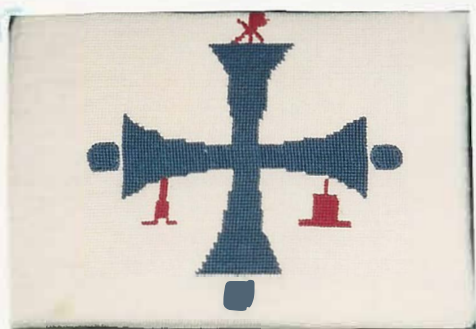
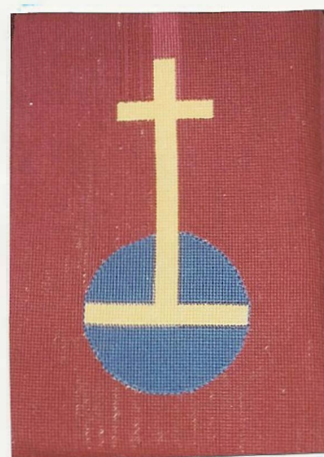
Rays of light were ancient symbols of divine power and glory.

TRIUMPHANT

This Cross of Conquest and Victory is comprised of the Cross and Orb.

The orb represents the earth and symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. It is a reminder that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ.

With the Cross, it signifies the victory of our Savior over the evils of the world -- the triumph of the Gospel throughout all the earth.



VAIR

The Cross Vair is a cross composed of four figures, each resembling a bell.

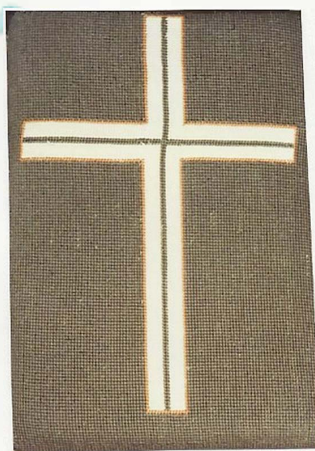
At the top may be seen the Chi Rho (X P), the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ." (X P I C T O C)

On the left and the right arms respectively are the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which are a symbol of the eternity of our Savior.

VOIDED



Any cross that pictures the color of the field or background showing through is called a Cross Voided.



EARTH AND SKY



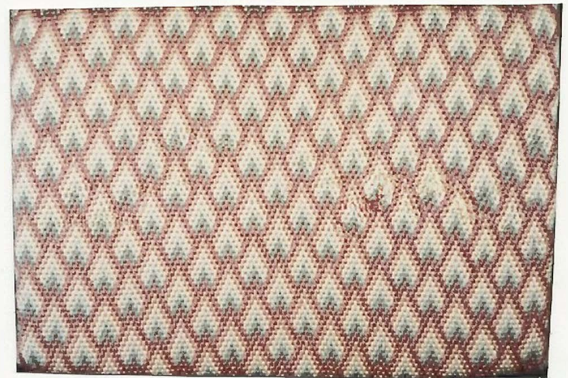
BETHLEHEM

The star is always taken as a symbol of the Redeemer's birth, and is an emblem especially appropriate for Christmastide in the Church.

Its use from early Christian times signifies the bright star of the heavens which heralded forth the Messiah's coming to earth as the new born Babe.

FIRE AND FLAMES

Fire and flames are symbolic of both martyrdom and religious fervor. The aureole is the symbol of divinity; therefore, of supreme power. The aureole often appears to end in, or to consist of, pointed flames. It may be shaded off in the colors of the rainbow. The early aureoles were white, but by the Renaissance, gold was generally used to give the impression of light. A blue aureole, indicating celestial glory, is occasionally seen.





THE FLAME OF FIRE

Next to the dove, the most common symbol of the Holy Spirit is the cloven flame of fire which appeared on the Day of Pentecost. "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2: 3,4)

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON

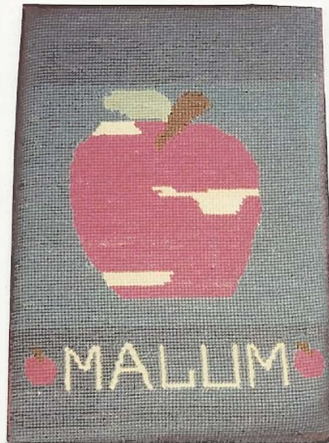
God the Father presides over the creation of the world; the Son endures the Passion; and the Holy Ghost illumines the Church, the society of the redeemed. The sun and moon are often represented in scenes of the Crucifixion to indicate the sorrow of all creation at the death of Christ. The primary symbol of Christianity is the cross. The eight-pointed star symbolizes regeneration. The clouds in the heavens are the natural veil of the blue sky, and are used as the symbol of the unseen God. The mountains, rocks, are a symbol of the Lord.



THE MAGI AT BETHLEHEM

The great symbol of the Epiphany, when Christ was manifested to the Gentiles by the guiding of the star, is given in Matthew 2: 1-2: "There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

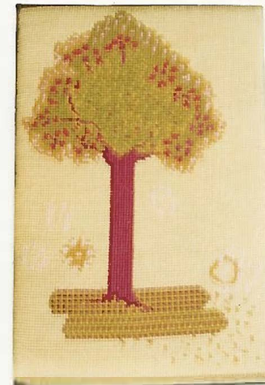
FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES



THE APPLE (MALUM)

In Latin, the word for apple and the word for evil, malum, are identical. It is for this reason that the legend has grown up that the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden, the fruit of which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat, was an apple tree (Genesis 3:3).

Since sin entered the world when Eve tasted of the forbidden fruit, pictured in art as an apple, the same fruit sometimes is given to the Virgin Mary, for it was her Son who took away the curse of sin. The apple may also be symbolic of Christ, the new Adam, who took upon Himself the burden of man's sin. For this reason, when the apple appears in the hands of Adam it means sin, but when it is in the hands of Christ, it symbolizes the fruit of salvation.



THE APPLE TREE



BARLEY/WHEAT

In Bible times, barley was a very important cereal grain used both to feed animals and to make bread and porridge for human consumption (I Kings 4: 28; Judges 7:13). This grain became a staple food for poor people, a symbol of poverty in a household. Bread was the "Staff of Life" to people in ancient times. It was the basis of every meal. Bread making was a daily chore for the women in Bible times. The bread was always broken into smaller pieces. The term, to break bread, means to share in a meal.

In Christian symbolism, barley and wheat sheaves are used as a symbol of the Body of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life. (John 6:35)



BASKET OF MIXED FLOWERS

Jesus used the flowers of the field to teach about the glory of the created world, God's unending care, and to emphasize that God's grace is freely given, not earned by man and his own efforts. (Matthew 6: 28)

THE BURNING BUSH

The burning bush is a symbol of Moses, called to deliver his people from the Egyptian oppressor (Exodus 3: 2). It also is a symbol of the announcement of the coming of Jesus, called to deliver the world from sin, (Luke 1:28-33)



THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

The Christmas rose symbolizes the Nativity of our Lord and of the messianic prophecy, a white hardy rose that blooms at Christmas.

The rose has been used only since the thirteenth century as a Christian symbol, and is shown usually in conventional form.



EASTER CROSS

The Easter Cross consists of a Latin Cross with either rays of shining light or Easter lilies surrounding it, as a symbol of our Risen Lord and of Easter Day.





THE EUCHARIST

Here are symbols of the wine and bread of Holy Communion.

The grape is the symbol of the Blood of Christ. It also is a representation of labor in the vineyard signifying the work of the Christian in the vineyard of the Lord.

Wheat is the symbol of the Body of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Wheat symbolizes the Bread of Life; symbolic of God's bounty, conveying the thought that every year there is a harvest to be garnered from the fields. As God enables mankind to garner a harvest from the earth, he makes it possible to reap a spiritual harvest. Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life - with bread symbolizing all things necessary for his life.

GRAPES ON CROSS

The Latin cross symbolizes the Passion of Christ or the Atonement. The vine is a symbol of the Savior. It refers to the source of the wine which in its consecrated form becomes "the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ" as administered to the devout in the Altar Sacrament.

Grapes were an important part of the biblical economy, being used for food and drink. The symbolism of the vine and the branches used by Jesus (John 15: 1) is thus related to the very necessities of life.



THE GRAPEVINE

Bunches of grapes were used to symbolize the wine of Holy Communion. The grape, like the Eucharistic wine, is a symbol of the Blood of Christ. The grapevine is used as an emblem of the Saviour, the "true vine." The vine is one of the most vivid symbols in the Bible, and is used to express the relationship between God and His people. The vine was used as the symbol of the Church of God, in which, alone, this relationship exists. (John 15:1)

IRIS

The iris rivals the lily as the flower of the Virgin Mary. The iris first appears as a religious symbol in the works of the early Flemish masters, where it both accompanies and replaces the lily in pictures of the Virgin. This symbolism stems from the fact that the name "iris" meant "sword lily," which was taken as an allusion to the sorrow of the Virgin at the Passion of Christ. Spanish painters adopted the iris as the attribute of the Queen of Heaven, and also as an attribute of the Immaculate Conception. It also represents Easter and immortality.



THE LATIN CROSS WITH IVY

The Latin cross is probably the actual form of the cross upon which our Lord was crucified.

The ivy is a symbol of faithfulness and constancy. Ivy has come to remind us of life eternal because of its continual green color. It calls to mind fidelity because of the manner in which it clings to a support.

THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

At the time of the Crucifixion, the dogwood, then the size of the oak and other forest trees, was chosen as the timber of the Cross, because it was so firm and strong. Afterward, it was said, "Never again shall the dogwood tree grow big enough to be used for such a cruel purpose. Henceforth, it shall be slender, bent, and twisted; its blossoms shall have petals in the form of a cross. In the center of each petal's outer edge, there shall be nail prints, brown with rust and stained red. And a crown of thorns will be in the flower's center. All who see it will remember."



LILY WITH THREE LEAVES

The lily is a symbol of purity, and has become the flower of the Virgin Mary. It symbolizes the Annunciation of our Lord.

As a symbol of the virtue of chastity, the lily is the attribute of several saints, among them St. Dominic, St. Francis, and St. Joseph.

The flower blossoms at Easter time, and is often called the Easter Lily.



LOTUS

This blossom of exquisite beauty and purity, with its roots in the mud, suggests that the life of the Christian may rise through and above unlovely and evil influences.

LOTUS WITH GREEK CROSS AND ALPHA AND OMEGA

The lotus, which has its stem in muddy water, is here supported by the form of a Greek cross. It denotes the strength of the Church of Christ, and that life of a Christian may rise above all passion and evil.

Letters stand for the Greek alpha, the first letter of that alphabet, and Omega, the last letter. They have come to symbolize Christ as the beginning and the end of all things (Revelation 1: 8).



POMEGRANATE

The pomegranate alludes to the Church because of the inner unity of countless seeds in one and the same fruit.

In pagan mythology, it was an attribute of Proserpina and symbolized her periodical return to earth in the spring and rejuvenation of the earth was derived. It symbolizes that of hope in immortality and of resurrection.



THE ROSE



A rose, either white or pink, is a common symbol of the Virgin Mary. Generally speaking, flowers are symbolic of the beauty of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Christian symbolism, the red rose is a symbol of martyrdom, while the white rose is a symbol of purity.

St. Ambrose relates how the rose came to have thorns: Before the rose became one of the flowers of the earth, it grew in Paradise without thorns. Only after the fall of man did the rose take on its thorns to remind man of the sins he had committed and his fall from grace; whereas its fragrance and beauty continued to remind him of the splendor of Paradise." It is probably in reference to this legend that the Virgin Mary is called "a rose without thorns," because of the tradition that she was exempt from the consequences of original sin.



ROSE OF SHARON

The rose is one of the happier Christian symbols. It is often used as a messianic symbol, based on the prophecy of Isaiah 35: 1 which says the desert shall bloom like the rose with the coming of the Messiah. Christ is called "The Rose of Sharon." "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." (Song of Solomon 2: 1)

Jesus used the flowers of the field to teach about the glory of the created world, God's unending care, and to emphasize that God's grace is freely given, not earned by man and his own efforts. (Matthew 6: 28) Lilies of the field symbolize life, glory, beauty and resurrection.

ROSES WITH CROSS

Traditionally, among the ancient Romans, the rose was the symbol of victory, pride, and triumphant love. It was the flower of Venus, goddess of love.

In Christian symbolism the red rose signifies martyrdom, while the white rose is a symbol of purity, an interpretation given since the earliest years of Christianity.

The Latin cross, located in the right lower corner, is the form on which it is said our Lord was crucified. It is the perfect symbol of Christ because of His sacrifice upon the Cross.



THORN BRANCH

Thorns and thorn branches signify grief, tribulation, and sin. The crown of thorns, when shown in connection with saints, is a symbol of their martyrdom.

All thorny plants have been accepted as an allusion to Christ's crown of thorns. (Matthew 27: 29)

The crown of thorns with which the soldiers crowned Christ before the Crucifixion was a parody of the Roman emperor's festal crown of roses.



THREE LEAF CLOVER or SHAMROCK

The prominent three leaves make the clover an easily understood symbol of the Trinity, three in one.

Legend says that St. Patrick used the clover to explain the Trinity in his preaching: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

THE TREFOIL WITH HOLLY

The trefoil is a symbol of the Trinity. Each circle represents one of the Persons in the Trinity. The circle has no apparent beginning or ending, signifying the eternal nature of each Person in the Godhead. Usually the three circles are interlaced or intertwined, thus forming one design which symbolizes the unity of the eternal God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God the Father is the Creator, revealed by Jesus Christ, and operating in humanity as the Holy Spirit.

The holly oak (ilex) is an evergreen which, because of its thorny leaves, is regarded as a symbol of Christ's crown of thorns. It is also said to have been the tree of the Cross, and therefore is symbolic of the Passion of Christ.



WHEAT AND TARES

A head of wheat and a head of darnel have been used to teach the fact that both true Christians and hypocrites are to be found within the Church, and will remain there until the final separation at the Last Day.

The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field...Let both grow together until the harvest and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 23: 24-30)

[darnel - a weedy rye grass]

GEOMETRIC IMAGES



ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

This depicts the altar upon which the offerings of first-fruits and grains were made.

The altar and flame are a symbol of Old Testament worship.



CHI RHO WITH CARPENTER'S SQUARE

X P or Chi-Rho is a symbol for Christ. On the lower right is a carpenter's square, recalling that Jesus was a carpenter by training in Nazareth. The base of the P is a type of cross quadrate -- that is, a cross with a square at the center of its arms. Incorporated in the curve of the P is another tool, an open-end wrench. The large X on the upper left resembles a Stillson wrench.

CITY ON A HILL

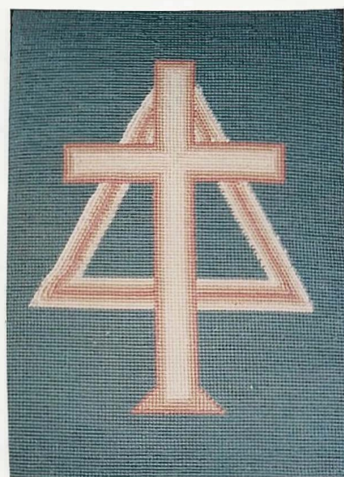
A city on a hill is symbolic of the stability and prominence of the Church as an influence in the world. Jesus' own words surely constitute one of the best commentaries on the meaning of this symbol:

"You are the light of the dark world: your lives reveal reality to mankind. Like yonder town on the hilltop, you are a beacon that cannot be hidden. Your influence is universal."

(G. R. H. Shafto's paraphrase of Matthew 5: 14ff in THE SCHOOL OF JESUS)



THE CROSS AND TRIANGLE



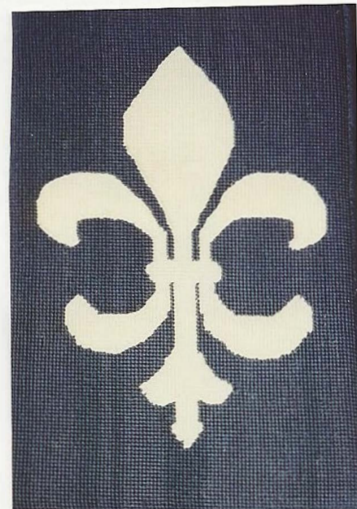
The Cross intertwined with the equilateral triangle emphasizes that Christ is one in the Holy Trinity. This teaches that man's salvation is the work of the Son of God, prompted by the Father's love, and applied to man by means of the work of the Holy Spirit.



THE EIGHT-POINTED STAR

The number eight is used to symbolize the regeneration of man. Jesus was given His name at the time of His Circumcision when he was eight days old. A Christian child receives his name at Baptism. The eight-pointed star is the emblem of regeneration or baptism. Hence the meaning of the eightfold emblem, and of the octagonal Baptismal Font base.

FLEUR DE LIS



The fleur-de-lis with its three divisions is a widely used symbol of the Trinity.

It is also used as a symbol of the Virgin Mary, its form derived from the lily, representing purity.

The design is seen most often as the ornamentation at the ends of pews or choir stalls.



NINE LATIN CROSSES - 1976 BICENTENNIAL

The colors of red, white and blue were used because The Church of England gave these colors to the states for the national ensign and in turn when the American flag was designed it took its colors from that of the mother country, changing not the colors, but the design.

This kneeler was made in 1976 to celebrate our nation's Bicentennial.

The color white symbolizes purity or joy; blue, heaven and heavenly love; red, the Holy Spirit. Red is suitable for ordinations, evangelistic services, anniversaries, consecrations, and for civil observances.



THE QUATREFOIL

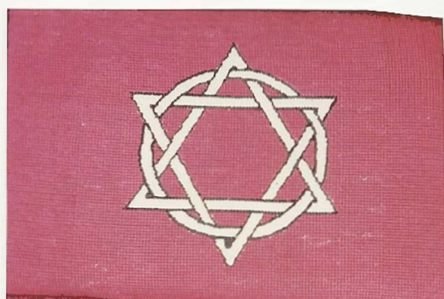
There are several meanings for this symbol:
 (1) Four Perfections of God - unity, power, goodness, and wisdom. (2) Four Cardinal Virtues - justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude. (3) Four Evangelists - St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John.

This particular design was taken from St. Michael's in the Hills' white and gold frontal. White, and also gold, symbolize purity of joy.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Colors are often used symbolically in the life of the Church. Liturgical colors and the times at which they are used are the result of traditions and popular usage. Colors are used in the church to teach the Gospel through the eye, as preaching does through the ear.

Each color is symbolic of the message of the season or day: White for purity and joy, used on the great festivals like Christmas and Easter; Red for blood and fire, used on days honoring martyrs and Pentecost; Purple or Violet for royalty or penitence and mourning, used during Advent and Lent; Green for hope and peace, used during Epiphanytide and Trinitytide; Black for death, used on Good Friday.



STAR OF DAVID WITH CIRCLE

The Star of David has two interwoven equilateral triangles. The intersected triangles form a six-pointed star, which is a symbol of the creation of the world. The six points recall the six days of creation, and the star is sometimes called "The Creator's Star."

The circle, or ring, has been universally accepted as the symbol of eternity and never-ending existence. As the monogram of God, it represents not only the perfection of God, but the everlasting God "who was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end."

THE THREE WISE MEN WITH CROSS

This is a unique design and an interpretation of the Three Wise Men following the Star over Bethlehem.



TRIANGLE WITH LATIN CROSS AND ALPHA AND OMEGA

The triangle symbolizes the three persons in the One God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The cross symbolizes Christ because of His sacrifice upon the cross.

The Alpha and Omega symbolize that our Lord Jesus is the beginning and end of all things: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1: 8)

THE TRINITY

The triangle is one of the most popular symbols of the Holy Trinity. Each side of the triangle represents a "Person" of the Godhead. One line represents the Father, another the Son, and the third the Holy Spirit. Together the lines form one triangle. Its sides are equal, its angles equal, and it carries with it the idea of unity, because it has three sides and three angles which are identical to one another in every respect, and yet are three distinct sides and angles. They are combined so as to form not three figures, but one figure.





TRINITY SHIELD

This interesting and expressive design may be read in any direction. There are four groups of sentences, two consisting of positive statements of what each member of the Godhead is, and the others of what they are not.

P - Padre, Father; F - Filius, Son; SS - Spiritus Sanctus, Holy Spirit; D (in the center) - Deus, God

From the center outward: God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit. From the outer corners inward: The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God.

Reading the outer edges, both clockwise and counter-clockwise: The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father, and so forth.

WEDDING KNEELER



This design was taken from St. Michael's in the Hills' white and gold frontal. The background is white with gold quatrefoil as the design.

There are several meanings for this symbol:

Four Perfections of God: unity, power, goodness and wisdom

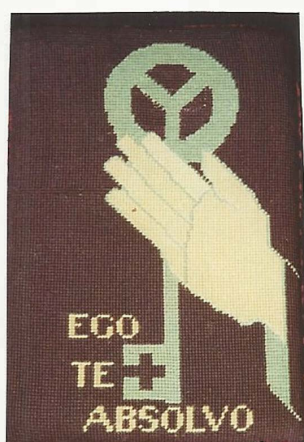
Four Cardinal virtues: justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude

Four Evangelists: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John

White, and also gold, symbolize purity of joy.

THE HUMAN BODY

ABSOLUTION



The hand raised, palm outward, is symbolic of the blessing of God. One key represents excommunication, by which the door is locked upon the willful and impenitent sinner. The key represents the power to absolve and symbolizes the spiritual authority of the Church (Matthew 18:18). Let us pick up the key and go through the door together. God has willed that we must open this door--and He has given us the key.

Ego Te Absolvo
(I) (forgive)

Around the sides of this kneeler are the words: We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep, from the Book of Common Prayer, Penitential Order I.

CLASPED HANDS

The hands clasped before the Cross suggests worship and adoration.

The Latin form shows the thumb and first two fingers extended, showing the grace of the Lord or the love of God.





HEART AND CHRISTMAS ROSE

The heart was considered to be the source of understanding, love, courage, devotion, sorrow and joy.

Its deep religious meaning is expressed in I Samuel 16:7 -- "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

The Christmas rose is a common charge of heraldry.

THE PIERCED HEART

The heart, pierced with a sword, is the symbol of the Blessed Virgin -- a reference to the Gospel warning uttered by the aged Simeon, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own heart also." The piercings were constant, right up to her son's death on a cross. (St. Luke 2: 35).



RED HEART IN ART GLASS WINDOW

The heart is the everlasting symbol of both love and will power. The biblical references, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart;" "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart" (Deut. 6: 5; Psalm 9: 1) refer to the vital or essential part of a human being.

When the symbol is combined with the cross it refers to Faith and Love...as in Saint Paul's writings in I Cor. 13: 13 " the greatest of these is love."

LETTERS, NUMBERS

ALPHA AND OMEGA

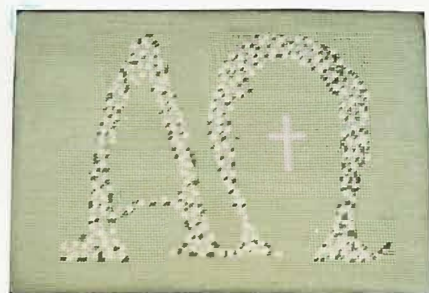


"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1: 8)

This symbol of our Lord comes from the catacombs and indicates that He is the beginning, continuation, and end of all things.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They are found in various combinations and are a symbol of Christ, used to indicate the everlasting nature of His divinity (note the crown at left).

A horizontal slightly curved line over letters indicates abbreviation.

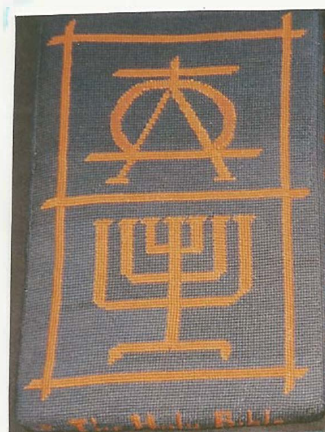


...WITH SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLESTICK

A Hebrew lamp stand, the seven-branched candelabrum represents the Old Testament worship. The Jews call this the Menorah, and it is in common use in synagogues.

For Christians, it represents the Church, and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.



CHI RHO

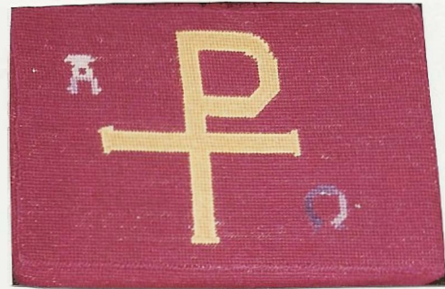


This is among the most ancient of the symbols of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Chi Rho is composed of the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ" (X P I C T O C).

It is called Chi Rho from the names of the Greek letters X and P. X is Chi; P is Rho.



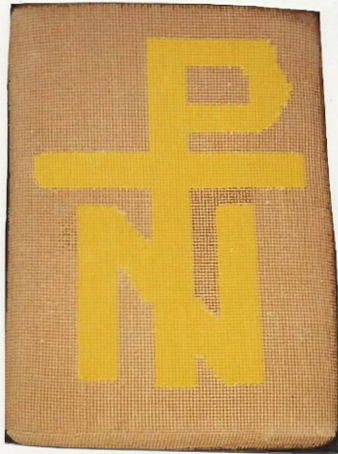
CHI RHO with ALPHA AND OMEGA



CHI RHO with N

The letter "N" stands for the Greek word NIKA which means VICTOR. Thus, "Jesus Christ, Victor."

Some believe that it is a combination of the Greek Chi Rho and the Latin word NOSTER, which means OUR. "Our Christ."

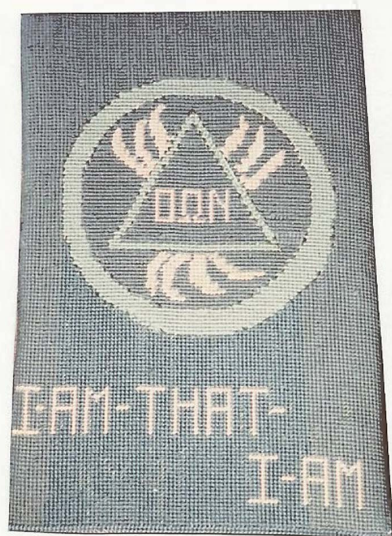


CHI RHO with FLAMES

Flames of fire are often used in the Bible to signify the appearance of God to man.

The burning bush in Exodus 3: 2-6 is an Old Testament example. In Acts 2: 3,4 "cloven tongues like as of fire" appeared on the heads of the disciples at Pentecost, signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.





I AM

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3: 14)

The inner meaning, I am the One who is, indicates God is the active, self-existent One.

The circle, without beginning and without end, is universally accepted as the symbol of eternity and never-ending existence. As the monogram of God, it represents not only the perfection of God, but the everlasting God.

The equilateral triangle, three equal parts joined in one, is a symbol of the Trinity.

Flames signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. Ten is the number of the Ten Commandments.

IC XC NI KA



An ancient monogram symbolizing "Jesus Christ, the Victor," or "Christ the Conqueror." I and C are the first and last letters of the Greek word Ihcuc (Jesus). X and C are the first and last letters of Xpictoc (Christ). Nika is the Greek word for conqueror.

This was an ancient symbol found in the catacombs. Curved lines over letters indicate abbreviation.

Since the letters are grouped around a cross, one may add, Jesus Christ conquers by the cross.

The elongated circle symbolizes never-ending existence.

I H S



The IHS is one of the most familiar of the sacred monograms. The letters are the first three letters of Ihsus (or the first two and the last) the Greek word for Jesus. IHC is sometimes seen -- the S and C are variant forms in the Greek alphabet (Ihcuc).

Some confuse the letters with the Latin phrase, "In hoc signo," in this sign. There is a legend that Constantine on the eve of battle beheld a vision of a banner with the words "In hoc signo vinces:" In this sign you will conquer. After victory, he is said to have embraced the Christian religion.

Another misinterpretation is that the letters are an abbreviation of the Latin phrase "Iesus Hominum Salvator" or Jesus Saviour of Men.

The monogram, inscribed in a sun, is a sign that is said to have appeared to St. Bernardino of Siena (1380-1444).

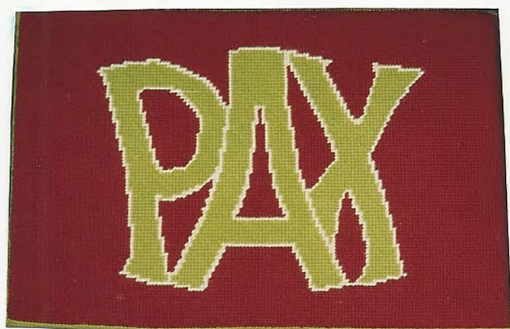


I N R I

These represent the four initial letters of the Latin words, "Jesus Nazareus Rex Judaeorum" meaning "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

At the time of the crucifixion, "Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. (John 19: 19)

John goes on to say "and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin."



PAX

The Latin word for peace.

Holy Eucharist: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

--The Book of Common Prayer

SEVEN DOVES

The dove, in ancient and Christian art, has been the symbol of purity and peace.

The most important use of the dove in Christian art is as the symbol of the Holy Ghost. Seven doves are used to represent the seven spirits of God or the Holy Spirit in its sevenfold gifts of Grace.

This refers to the prophecy of Isaiah 11: 1,2:

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."



TEN COMMANDMENTS

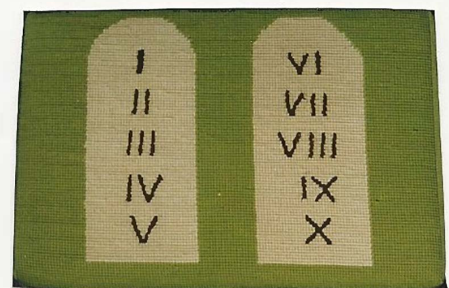
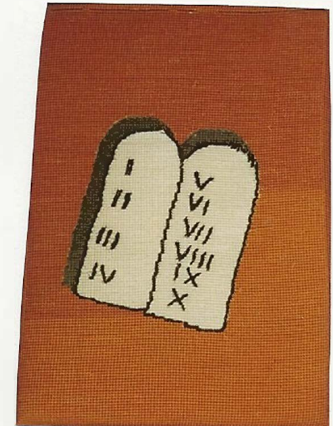
A two-fold stone tablet symbolizes the Ten Commandments which constitute the fundamental moral law for both Jews and Christians. The Ten Commandments are sometimes called the decalogue, or the ten words. They were written on two tables, which are called tables of the covenant.

The Commandments may be found in Exodus 20: 2-17 and in Deuteronomy 5: 6-21.

The first five commandments are said to represent the duties of piety (devotion to God and family), and the second five those of probity, that is, honesty and integrity.

Hebrew tablets show five commandments on each side; some Roman Catholic and Lutheran bodies show the first table with three, and the second with seven commandments; Calvinistic denominations may show four on the first and six on the second.

The cracks (lower left) refer to the fact that the tablets were broken in anger by Moses (Exodus 32: 19). See also Exodus 34, verse 1.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei is from the Latin for "O Lamb of God."

A lamb was commonly sacrificed in the services of the Jewish tabernacle and temple. The use of the Lamb of God is of ancient origin. It is based on such Scripture verses as Isaiah 53, verse 7:

He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...

In John 1, verse 29, John the Baptist, on seeing Jesus, said:

Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

From Revelation 5 verse 12, is quoted:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...



AMEN

Amen is the Greek word for "yes," or "truly." In Hebrew its meaning is "truth," used adverbially to express strong confirmation.

As a response, said or sung at the end of prayers, hymns, and anthems, it indicates assent, as "May it be so."

BEDTIME PRAYER

A well-known children's prayer:

Now I lay me

Down to sleep.

I pray the Lord

My soul to keep.

If I should die

Before I wake,

I pray thee Lord

My soul to take.

God bless all.

For Jesus sake

Amen.



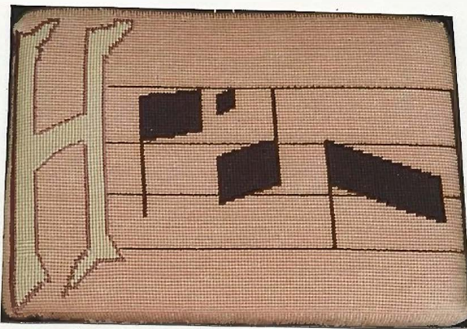
CHURCH

The symbol of the ship is often used to symbolize the Church, the means of our heavenward voyage, which carries Christian souls safely across the troubled seas of this life, providing its Sacraments for their every spiritual need from birth to death. The imagery of the ship being tossed about by stormy waves, yet reaching its destination, is descriptive of the Church as it is opposed by persecution, heresy, and schism.

The long body of the church building is called the nave. The word is derived from both the Greek word naos, which means the principal area in a temple, and the word nave, from nava, the Latin word for ship.

Sometimes the church is alluded to as the Ark, and in this sense means the salvation of all its members, as in Noah's Ark, the Ark of Salvation.

In Christian symbolism, the church has several meanings. In its basic sense, it means the House of God. It may also be used to signify the Body of Christ.



HALLELUJAH

"H" with three notes on a music scale is a symbol for hallelujah. It is a hymn of praise to God derived from the Hebrew "hallelu" (praise) plus "yah" (Jehovah).

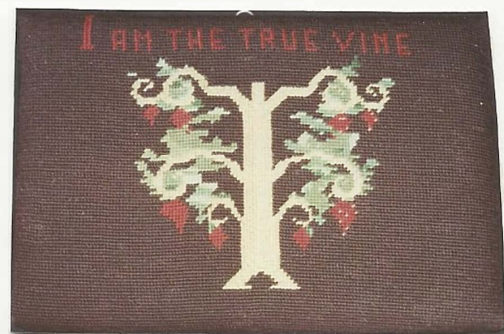
Praise (ye) the Lord.

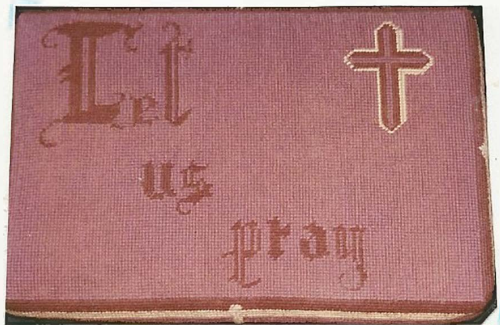
I AM THE TRUE VINE

The vine is one of the most vivid symbols in the Bible and is used to express the relationship between God and His people. The vineyard refers to the protected place where the children of God flourish under the tender care of God, the Keeper of the Vineyard.

The vine as the emblem of Christ follows from His words expressing the new relation between God and man through Him. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (John 15: 1)

He continues in verse 5: "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." The strawberry is the symbol of the righteous man whose fruits are good works.





LET US PRAY

Prayer for the Christian is his speaking with God in faith through Jesus Christ.

Prayer is expressed in the offering of praise, thanksgiving, and petitions to God either privately or as a community of worshippers at service.

Arms of the cross in the upper right hand of this kneeler are pointed, representing the Passion of our Lord. "The Offering of Christ once made is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world..." The Book of Common Prayer.

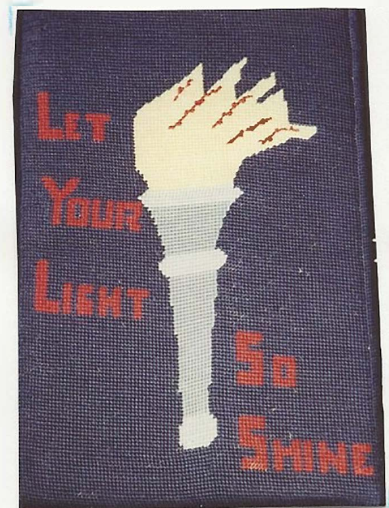
Page 874

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

As a Christian symbol the burning torch signifies witnessing for Christ.

Following the Beatitudes in the fifth chapter of Matthew, Jesus says to the multitudes, "Ye are the light of the world." (Verse 14). He continues in verse 16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Thus, our light, by deed and example, is to shine as disciples of Christ before men, that they may be led by our good works to be worthier persons and so glorify our Father.





LORD'S SUPPER

A portrayal of the sacrament of Holy Communion instituted by Christ on Maundy Thursday in the Upper Room. He commanded His disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22: 19, 20)

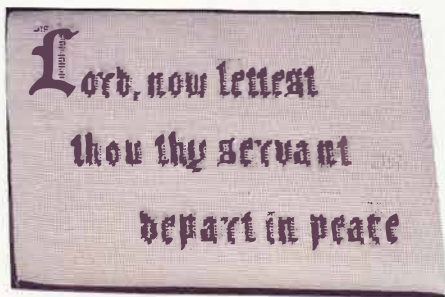
LOVE ONE ANOTHER

This call from John 15, verse 12 is said to be the hallmark of biblical teaching on love.

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Love is to be the badge of all Christians and their bond with God. Such love is more than lip service; it is essentially practical and sacrificial.





NUNC DIMITTIS

Now lettest depart - these words are from the song of Simeon in Luke, chapter 2, verses 29 to 32.

It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (Luke 2: 26) When Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the temple, he took Him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

PSALM 23

"The Lord is My Shepherd" begins this song of trust as David pictures the Lord as the great Shepherd who provides for and protects His sheep (v. 1-4) and as the gracious Host who protects and provides abundantly for His guests (v. 5-6).

The imagery of Christ as Shepherd is found frequently in the New Testament. In John 10, verses 14 and 15, Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.



PSALM 74

Verse 16 of this Psalm reads: The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

The hourglass and sun dial pictured are instruments that measure and show time.

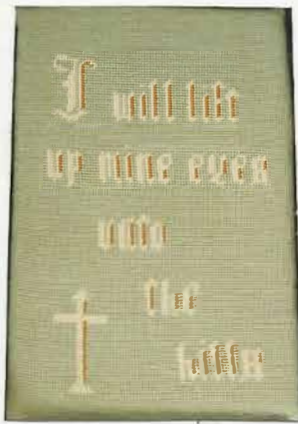
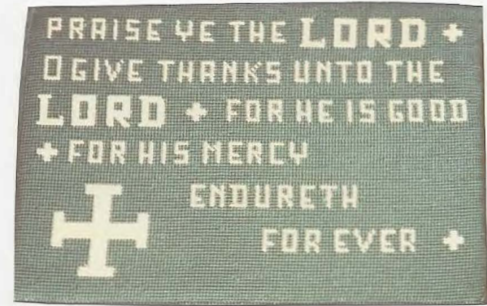
Chapter one of the Book of Genesis describes the creation of the world. Psalm 74 was written against the background of the Babylonian captivity: the nation's cry for help, but also the confidence of their hope.

PSALM 106

Pictured is the first verse of this Psalm:

Praise ye the Lord, O give thanks unto the Lord;
for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

The variety of songs, laments and praises in this book caused it to be left unnamed in the Old Testament. The Jews referred to it as "The Book of Praises," while the Septuagint entitled it "The Book of Psalms" (from a Greek word indicating songs sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments). The book was the hymnal of the Jewish people.



PSALM 121

This Pilgrim hymn affirms that all true help comes from the Lord, who is the Keeper of Israel. This is one of the Psalms which formed a hymn book used by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for the annual feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

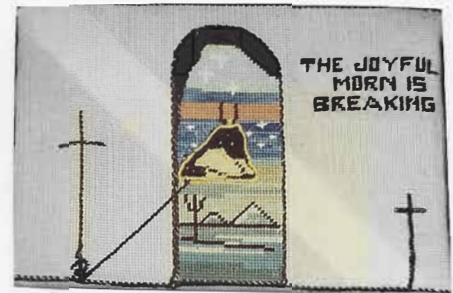
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills (verse 1) continues from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Whatever the Psalmist's reason for looking to the hills, whether as a potential refuge or as a menace (being the haunt of robbers), he affirms that his trust is in the Creator not only of those hills, but of the universe.

RESURRECTION

"The Joyful Morn is Breaking" illustrates the power of our Lord who was able to burst the tomb on the first Easter Day and came forth alive to promise that we, too, shall rise from the dead.

The line from the cross at left points to the empty tomb. From the night sky, the rosy hue of dawn heralds a new day. The ray of light is white, a symbol of the Creator.





SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This kneeler lists seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Six of these are mentioned in Isaiah 11, verse 2. Piety was added later.

The prophecy refers to the Messiah; he would be characterized by the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5: 22, 23 lists love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance as the fruits of the Spirit.

THANKSGIVING

These symbols of God's bounty convey the thought that every year practically without fail, there is a harvest to be garnered from the fields. "For these and all Thy mercies, we thank Thee, O God."

The grapes and wheat in the center suggest the wine and bread of Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Eucharist is derived from the Greek eucharistia, meaning gratitude, or giving of thanks.

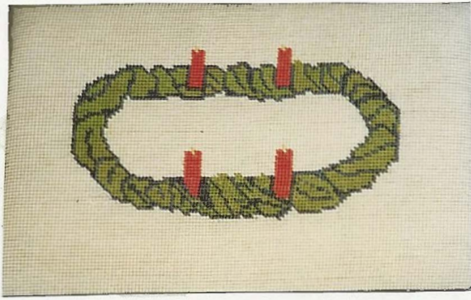


WORTHY IS THE LAMB

The recognition of the crucified Lord is a matter of overwhelming importance in the book of Revelation. In his heavenly vision, John hears countless creatures "Saying with a loud voice,

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Revelation 5: 12)

RELIGIOUS OBJECTS



ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is used during the Advent season, which is the first season of the church year. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. The Advent Wreath has four candles, one for each Sunday.

Advent means "coming" and is a season of preparation for Christ's coming at Christmastime, and also for His Second Coming to judge the world.

THE ALTAR

The altar is the most important furnishing of the church. It is usually a table of wood or stone placed in the sanctuary facing the congregation. At the altar the Holy Eucharist is consecrated and administered, and worship is conducted. On it is the altar service book; a cross - the perfect symbol of Christ because of His sacrifice upon the cross; candlesticks - representing the natures of Jesus Christ, the human and the divine; flowers which teach about the glory of the created world. There is a kneeling rail in front. The altar symbolizes the presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7: 12)



THE ARK AND RAINBOW

In the story of the flood, the dove, sent out from the ark by Noah, brought back an olive branch to show that the waters had receded and that God had made peace with man. (Genesis 8: 11)

The ark and the rainbow are the most common symbols of the flood. They are also symbols of the church, since in the ark all living creatures found refuge from danger.

Around the sides of this kneeler are the following words taken from Chapter 9, verse 12 of Genesis: This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every creature.



CHALICE WITH I N R I

The cup is a symbol of the blood of Christ and the sacrament of Holy Communion; the wafer the body of Christ.

The INRI is more of an abbreviation than a monogram, the letters standing for the Latin inscription over the cross of Calvary:

Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum - Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. (John 19: 19)

CHALICE WITH TRUMPET AND CROSS

The chalice, trumpet, and cross are symbolic of the communion between Jesus Christ and the believers. The chalice symbolizes the blood of Christ and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. (Mark 14: 23, 24)

The trumpet is symbolic of the day of judgment, the call to worship, and the resurrection (I Cor. 15: 52, 53).

The cross is symbolic for Christ. The Latin form shown is the form of cross on which it is said our Lord was crucified.



THE CHRISTUS REX (CHRIST THE KING)

The Christus Rex is the vested figure of Christ crucified. He wears Eucharistic vestments and is shown reigning from the Cross.



THE CROSS URDY AND CHALICE

The Cross Urdy is basically a cross with spear ends added onto it. It shows up frequently in all heraldry involving forms of martyrdom, especially death by spear.

The Cross Urdy depicted as rising out of a chalice is a symbolic reference to the Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. It distinguishes the cup as a symbol of the Passion.

In Matthew 20: 22 Jesus is quoted as saying "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of..."

THE CROWN

The crown represents Jesus as Lord and King. It refers also to the reward of a faithful Christian life, as suggested in I Peter 5: 4 - "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. (Psalm 47: 7)



EIGHT POINTED STAR

The eight-pointed star is an emblem of regeneration or baptism, as eight is the number used to symbolize the regeneration of man. Jesus was given His name at the time of His Circumcision when He was eight days old. Baptismal fonts often have an octagonal base.

The I H S is a familiar monogram consisting of the first three letters (or the first two and the last), of the Greek word for "Jesus." [I H C O Y C]. As knowledge of Greek became rare, the Greek C was changed to a Latin S, so the abbreviation was often I H S instead of I H C.



The Latin Cross is pointed, or fitched.